

REMARKS

Claims 29-49 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claims 29-49 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,674,541 (Kamiyama et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,145,899 (Pearce et al.), in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,456,625 (Itoi). The Examiner appears to state that Kamiyama et al. discloses all the elements of claims 29, 35, 37 and 38 except for explicitly disclosing two categories of telephone numbers. The Examiner also states that Pearce explicitly discloses two categories of telephone numbers since it discloses digit analysis. The Examiner further states that Pearce discloses only one registration table but that Itoi discloses providing multiple tables. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Kamiyama et al. is directed to a method of transmitting facsimile data between facsimile apparatuses each connected to a single relay apparatus, where the relay apparatus are connected to each other through an internet protocol network. (See Fig. 1.) Each facsimile apparatus 1-31, 1-32, 1-41, 1-42 has only a single telephone number. Each relay apparatus holds a table which includes the telephone number of each facsimile connected to every relay apparatus in the network and a corresponding IP address. Upon a facsimile apparatus placing a call to another facsimile apparatus, the telephone number received by the local relay apparatus is converted to the corresponding IP address of the called facsimile by the relay apparatus and the facsimile data is transmitted by the relay apparatus to the called facsimile apparatus via the internet protocol network using the network address of the called facsimile apparatus.

Pearce is directed to a method of routing calls through a packet based network. The network includes IP telephony devices 22 having an IP address connected to the packet network. Calls placed over the packet network are managed by a call manager 26. Each IP telephony device registers with a single call manager 26. There are also telephones 54 having inside and outside telephone numbers connected via a PBX to a plain old telephone system (POTS) and conventional telephones 68 having a single telephone number connected to the POTS. The packet network and the POTS network are connected via gateways 24. A call placed by an IP telephony device 22 is managed by the single call manager 26 with which the IP telephony

device registers. (See col. 6, line 25 to col. 7, line 35). The call manager 26 performs any conversion necessary from a digit string to a process identification number (PID) using the digit analysis module 104 and the registration table 110 in the call manager 26 (Figs 2, 3 and 7) for forwarding a call. As described at col. 6, lines 39-61, the digit analysis module merely translates the received number into a PID and does not distinguish between categories of telephone numbers. No telephone includes telephone numbers belonging to two categories and a corresponding IP address.

Itoi is directed to an interface circuit 312 which accommodates an internet phone/data terminal 313 having a single telephone number. An address unit 307 in the interface circuit 312 converts a telephone number received from a terminal to a network address using information stored in a table unit 306 (See col. 2, line 33-to col. 3, line 48). The table unit 306 in the interface circuit is partitioned into a local table 316, a group table 317, a routing table 318 and a direct table 319 (col. 7, line 35 to col. 8, line 39).

Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner, while focusing on the issue of separate categories of telephone numbers and separate tables for supplying network addresses, has failed to consider other important and distinguishing characteristics of the invention, as follows:

1. The claimed image communication apparatuses (i.e. facsimiles) each possess both two telephone numbers and a corresponding network address. None of the cited references teach or suggest an image communication apparatus having two telephone numbers and a corresponding network address;

2. No communication apparatus (i.e. facsimile) disclosed in any of the cited references has a judging section which determines the category of a telephone number and directs a called telephone number to a specific network supplying device based on the category of the determined telephone number;

3. No address supplying device disclosed by any cited reference provides the network address back to the calling image communication apparatus, but instead merely provides a conversion of the telephone number to the network address and forwards the call.

4. No address supplying device disclosed by any of the cited references stores a first category of telephone numbers and not a second category of telephone numbers, wherein the address supplying devices are separated by a computer network.

Applicant has attached in the Appendix an analysis of each limitation of each of independent claims 29, 35, 37 and 38 which distinguishes the respective claims from the combination of Kamiyama et al., Pearce and Itoi. The analysis clearly shows that even if the cited references were combined, at least one limitation in each of claims 29, 35, 37 and 38 is not taught or suggested by the combination of cited references. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claims 29, 35, 37 and 38.

Applicant further submits that claims 30-34, 36 and 40-49 are allowable at least by their dependency on claims 29, 35 and 38 respectively. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claims 30-34, 36, and 40-49.

Conclusion

Insofar as the Examiner's objections and rejections to claims 29-49 have been fully addressed, the instant application including claims 29-49 is in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the Final Rejection, formal entry of the present "Amendment After Final," and issuance of a Notice of Allowability of claims 29-49 is therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

Claim 29	Kamiyami	Pearce	Itoi
<p>29 An image communication system comprising: <u>a plurality of image communications apparatuses,</u> <u>each of which possessing a telephone number belonging to</u> <u>a first category of telephone numbers, a telephone number</u> <u>belonging to a second category of telephone numbers and</u> <u>a corresponding network address;</u></p>	<p>The FAX devices 1-41, 1-42, 1-31 and 1-32 disclosed by K in Fig. 1 have only a single telephone number. K does not disclose <u>an image communication apparatus having two categories of telephone numbers and a network address</u></p>	<p>The telephones disclosed by P (Fig. 1) comprise an IP telephony device 22 having an IP address, subscriber phones 68 having a single category of telephone numbers and PBX phones 54 having two categories of telephone numbers. However, the image communication apparatus disclosed by P does not disclose an image communication apparatus <u>having two categories of telephone numbers and a network address</u>.</p>	<p>As shown by P. in Fig. 3B, the telephones 310 and 312 connect to <u>either the internet or the analog phone system</u>. Accordingly, the image communication apparatus disclosed by I. have only a single telephone number. I. does not disclose an image communication apparatus <u>having two categories of telephone numbers and a network address</u></p>

Claim 29	Kamivami	Pearce	Itoi
<p>a first address supplying device storing telephone numbers belonging to the first category of telephone numbers and not the second category of telephone numbers, the corresponding network address of each one of the plurality of image communications apparatuses and a relationship between each one the telephone numbers belonging to the first category of telephone numbers and each one of the corresponding network addresses;</p>	<p>Each relay apparatus of K. stores both the first and the second categories (See Fig. 1). Thus, K. does not have a first table that stores telephone numbers of a first category and <u>not</u> numbers of a second category.</p>	<p>Each digit analysis module of P stores both the first and the second categories (See Fig. 3). Thus, P does not have a first table that stores telephone numbers of a first category and not numbers of a second category.</p>	<p>The address supplying devices 316-319 disclosed by I are all within the same device and not separated by a network. (See below)</p>
<p>a second address supplying device storing telephone numbers belonging to the second category of telephone numbers and not the first category of telephone numbers, the corresponding network address of each one of the plurality of image communications apparatuses and a relationship between each one of the telephone numbers belonging to the second category of telephone numbers and each one of the corresponding network addresses; and</p>	<p>Each relay apparatus of K. stores both the first and the second categories (See Fig. 1). Thus, K. does not have a second table that stores telephone numbers of a first category and not numbers of a second category.</p>	<p>Each digit analysis module of P stores both the first and the second categories (See Fig. 3). Thus, P does not have a second table that stores telephone numbers of a first category and not numbers of a second category.</p>	<p>The address supplying devices 316-319 disclosed by I are all within the same device and not separated by a network. (See below)</p>

Claim 29	Kamiyami	Pearce	Itoi
<p>a judging section included in each of the plurality of image communications apparatuses, said judging section included in one of the plurality of image communications apparatuses: (1) determining whether a telephone number input to the one of the plurality of image communications apparatuses belongs to the first category of telephone numbers or to the second category of telephone numbers, and (2) if the input telephone number belongs to the first category of telephone numbers, directing the input telephone number to the first address supplying device and (3) if the input telephone number belongs to the second category of telephone numbers, directing the input telephone number to the second address supplying device, wherein said first address supplying device provides the corresponding network address of the input telephone number to the one of the plurality of image communication apparatuses if the input telephone number belongs to the first category of telephone numbers, and said second address supplying device providing the corresponding network address of the input telephone number to the one of the plurality of image communication apparatuses if the input telephone number belongs to the second category of telephone numbers, and wherein said first address supplying device and said second address supplying device are separated by a computer network.</p>	<p>K. does not disclose a judging section in each <u>image communication apparatus which directs the telephone number to one of two network address supplying devices.</u></p>	<p>P. does not disclose a judging section in each <u>image communication apparatus which directs the telephone number to one of two network address supplying devices.</u></p>	<p>I. does not disclose a judging section in each <u>image communication apparatus which directs the telephone number to one of two network address supplying devices.</u></p>
<p>wherein said first address supplying device provides the corresponding network address of the input telephone number to the one of the plurality of image communication apparatuses if the input telephone number belongs to the first category of telephone numbers, and said second address supplying device providing the corresponding network address of the input telephone number to the one of the plurality of image communication apparatuses if the input telephone number belongs to the second category of telephone numbers, and wherein said first address supplying device and said second address supplying device are separated by a computer network.</p>	<p>The relay apparatus 1-10, does <u>not</u> provide the network address to the communication apparatus 1-41, 1-31</p>	<p>The call manager 26 does not provide the network address to the telephone 22.</p>	<p>The address unit 307 does not provide the network address to the telephones 311, 312.</p>
			<p>See above</p>

Claim 35	Kamiyami	Pearce	Itoi
<p>35. (Previously presented) A method of transmitting images between a plurality of image communications apparatuses, each of the plurality of <u>image communications apparatuses possessing a telephone number belonging to a first category of telephone numbers, a telephone number belonging to a second category of telephone numbers and a corresponding network address, the method comprising the steps of:</u></p>	<p>The image communication apparatus 1-41, 1-42, 1-31 and 1-32 disclosed by K. in Fig. 1 have only a single telephone number. K. does not disclose an <u>image apparatus having two categories of telephone numbers and a network address</u></p>	<p>The telephones disclosed by P (Fig. 1) comprise an IP telephony device 22 having an IP address, subscriber phones 68 having a single category of telephone numbers and PBX phones 54 having two categories of telephone numbers. However, the image communication apparatus disclosed by P. does not disclose an <u>image apparatus having two categories of telephone numbers and a network address.</u></p>	<p>As shown by P. in Fig. 3B, the telephones 310 and 312 connect to <u>either the internet or the analog phone system.</u> Accordingly, the image communication apparatus disclosed by I. have only a single telephone number. I. does not disclose an <u>image apparatus having two categories of telephone numbers and a network address</u></p>
<p>receiving in a first one of the plurality communication apparatuses a telephone number of a second one of the plurality of image communication apparatuses; judging within said first one of the communication apparatuses whether said received telephone number corresponds to the first category of telephone numbers or to the second category of telephone numbers;</p>			

Claim 35	Kamiyami	Pearce	Itoi
attempting to acquire the network address corresponding to the telephone number of the second one of the image communication apparatuses if said telephone number is determined to belong to the first category of telephone numbers by referring to a first table storing the first category of telephone numbers and not the second category of telephone numbers, the corresponding network address of each one of the plurality of image communications apparatuses and a relationship between each one of the telephone numbers belonging to the first category of telephone numbers and each one of the corresponding network addresses;	Each relay apparatus of K stores both the first and the second categories (See Fig. 1). Thus, K does not have a first table that stores telephone numbers of a first category and not numbers of a second category.	Each digit analysis module of P stores both the first and the second categories (See Fig. 3). Thus, P does not have a first table that stores telephone numbers of a first category and not numbers of a second category.	The tables 316-319 disclosed by I are all within the same device and not separated by a network. (See below)
attempting to acquire the network address corresponding to the telephone number of the second one of the image communication apparatuses if said telephone number is determined to belong to the second category of telephone numbers by referring to a second table storing the second category of telephone numbers and not the first category of telephone numbers, the corresponding network address of each one of the plurality of image communications apparatuses and a relationship between each one of the telephone numbers belonging to the second category of telephone numbers and each one of the corresponding network addresses; and	Each relay apparatus of K stores both the first and the second categories (See Fig. 1). Thus, K does not have a second table that stores telephone numbers of a first category and not numbers of a second category.	Each digit analysis module of P stores both the first and the second categories (See Fig. 3). Thus, P does not have a second table that stores telephone numbers of a first category and not numbers of a second category.	The tables 316-319 disclosed by I are all within the same device and not separated by a network. (See below)
transmitting said image to said second image communication apparatus via the computer network based on the acquired network address if the network address is acquired,			
wherein the first table and the second table are separated by a computer network.			See above

Claim 37	Kamiyami	Pearce	Itoi
<p>37. An image communication system for performing an image communication via an Internet Protocol (IP) network, comprising: a first image communication apparatus for transmitting an image;</p>	<p>The image communication apparatus 1-41, 1-42, 1-31 and 1-32 disclosed by K in Fig. 1 have only a single telephone number. K does not disclose an image apparatus having both outside and inside telephone numbers and an IP address</p>	<p>The telephones disclosed by P (Fig. 1) comprise an IP telephony device 22 having an IP address, subscriber phones 68 having a single category of telephone numbers and PBX phones 54 having outside and inside telephone numbers. However, the image communication apparatus disclosed by P does not disclose an image apparatus having outside and inside telephone numbers and an IP address.</p>	<p>As shown by P in Fig. 3B, the telephones 310 and 312 connect to either the internet or the analog phone system. Accordingly, the image communication apparatus disclosed by I. have only a single telephone number. I. does not disclose an image apparatus having two both outside and inside telephone numbers and an IP address</p>

Claim 37	Kamiyami	Pearce	Itoi
a first address supplying device which stores the outside telephone number and not the inside telephone number and stores a corresponding relation between said outside telephone number and said IP address; and	Each relay apparatus 1-10 stores all telephone numbers and thus does not store only telephone numbers belonging to a single category of telephone numbers.	Each call manager 26 stores all telephone numbers and thus does not store only telephone numbers belonging to a single category of telephone numbers.	The address supplying devices 316-319 disclosed by 1 are all within the same device and not connected by a network. (See below)
a second address supplying device stores the inside telephone number and not the outside telephone number and stores a corresponding relation between said inside telephone number and said same IP address,	Each relay apparatus 1-20 stores all telephone numbers and thus does not store only telephone numbers belonging to a single category of telephone numbers.	Each call manager 26 stores all telephone numbers and thus does not store only telephone numbers belonging to a single category of telephone numbers.	The address supplying devices 316-319 disclosed by 1 are all within the same device and not connected by a network. (See below)
wherein said first image communication apparatus includes: an inputting section to input a number for transmitting an image to said second image communication apparatus; a judging section to judge said inputted number is which of said outside telephone number and said inside telephone number of said second image communication apparatus;			

Claim 37	Kamiyami The image communication apparatus disclosed by K does not have an IP obtaining section.	Pearce The telephones disclosed by P do not have an IP obtaining section.	Itoi The telephones disclosed by I do not have an IP obtaining section.
<p>an IP address obtaining section which, if said inputted number is said outside telephone number, connects to said first address supplying device via said IP network to obtain said IP address based on said outside telephone number; and which, if said inputted number is said inside telephone number, connects to said second address supplying device via said IP network to obtain said IP address based on said inside telephone number; and</p>			
<p>an image transmitting section which, on the basis of said obtained IP address, transmits said image to said second image communication apparatus via said IP network,</p>			
<p>wherein said first address supplying device and said second address supplying device are connected by said IP network</p>			See above

Claim 38	Kamiyami	Pearce	Itoi
<p>38. (Previously presented) An image communication apparatus for an image communication network system which includes a computer network enabled to transmit and receive an image on the basis of a network address;</p> <p>a first category telephone line enabled to transmit and receive said image on the basis of a first category telephone number;</p> <p>a second category telephone line enabled to transmit and receive said image on the basis of a second category telephone number;</p> <p>a first address supplying device which is connected with said computer network, and which stores said first category telephone number and not said second category of telephone number and stores said network address corresponding to said first category telephone number through a first setting a relation and</p> <p>a second address supplying device which is connected separately from said first address supplying device with said computer network, and which stores said second category telephone number and not the said first category of telephone number and stores said network address corresponding to said second category telephone number through a second setting a relation,</p>	<p>Each relay apparatus 1-10 stores all telephone numbers and thus does not store only telephone numbers belonging to a single category of telephone numbers.</p>	<p>Each call manager 26 stores all telephone numbers and thus does not store only telephone numbers belonging to a single category of telephone numbers.</p>	<p>The tables 316-319 disclosed by I are all within the same device and not connected separately to the computer network.</p>
<p>said apparatus comprising:</p> <p>an inputting section into which a number corresponding to one of said first category telephone number and said second category telephone number that are assigned to another image communication apparatus to receiving said image is input;</p>			

Claim 38		Kamiyami	Pearce	Itoi
<p>a judging section to judge whether the input number inputted into said inputting section belongs to said first category telephone number or to said second category telephone number;</p>	<p>a number transmitting section which, if said input number is judged being said first category telephone number by said judging section, transmits said input number to said first address supplying device; and if said input number is judged to be said second category telephone number by said judging section, transmits said input number to said second address supplying device;</p>	<p>The FAX devices 1-41, 1-42, 1-31 and 1-32 do not transmit an input number to a first or a second address supplying device depending in the category of the telephone number.</p>	<p>The IP telephony devices 22 do not transmit an input number to a first or a second address supplying device depending in the category of the telephone number.</p>	<p>The telephones 311, 313 do not transmit an input number to a first or a second address supplying device depending in the category of the telephone number.</p>
<p>an address receiving section to receive said network address supplied from one of said first address supplying device and said second address supplying device in response to said input number transmitted from said number transmitting section; and</p>	<p>an image transmitting section to transmit said image to said another image communication apparatus via said computer network by making said network address received by said address receiving section serve as a transmitting address.</p>	<p>The FAX devices 1-41, 1-42, 1-31 and 1-32 do not receive a network address from an address supplying device</p>	<p>The IP telephony devices 22 do not receive a network address from an address supplying device</p>	<p>The telephones 311, 313 do not receive a network address from an address supplying device</p>
		<p>The FAX devices 1-41, 1-42, 1-31 and 1-32 do not transmit an input number to a first or a second address supplying device depending in the category of the telephone number.</p>	<p>The IP telephony devices do not transmit an image using a network address.</p>	<p>The telephones 311, 313 do not transmit an image using a network address.</p>